

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

THOMAS KARMAZIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

DR. SHAH and A. RECTOR,

Defendants.

Case No. 13-cv-1120-JPG

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on plaintiff Thomas Karmatzis's motion for free copies of various documents from his long-terminated case: a defendant's affidavit, summary judgment orders, and other documents that are not specifically identified (Doc. 140).

Litigants have no constitutional right to a complimentary copy of any document in their court files. *See United States v. Groce*, 838 F. Supp. 411, 413, 414 (E.D. Wis. 1993). Before providing copies free of charge, a district court may require the requestor to show: (1) that he has exhausted *all* other means of access to his files (*i.e.*, through his trial and appellate counsel), (2) that he is financially unable to secure access to his court files (*i.e.*, through a showing similar to that required in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) which includes a certified copy of the prisoner's trust account for the previous six-month period prior to filing), and (3) that the documents requested are necessary for some specific non-frivolous court action. *See United States v. Wilkinson*, 618 F.2d 1215, 1218-19 (7th Cir. 1980); *Rush v. United States*, 559 F.2d 455, 459 (7th Cir. 1977); *Groce*, 838 F. Supp. at 413-14. These minimal requirements do not impose any substantial burden to financially unable prisoners who desire their records be sent to them at government expense.

Karmatzis has not made any showing of indigence or that he is financially unable to pay

the regular charge of \$ 0.50 per page that the Clerk's Office charges for copies. Nor has he shown that the documents requested are necessary for a specific non-frivolous court action. However, in case he wants to buy certain documents from this case from the Clerk's Office, the Court **DIRECTS** the Clerk of Court to send Karmatzis the docket sheet in this case. Karmatzis should identify by docket number any document he seeks to purchase from the Clerk's Office, which can then inform him of the copy cost for that document.

The Court **DENIES** Karmatzis's motion for free copies (Doc. 140).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: July 23, 2020

s/ J. Phil Gilbert
J. PHIL GILBERT
DISTRICT JUDGE